

Gibson, Anne et Fast, Timothy (1986) *The Women's Atlas of the United States*. New York/Oxford, Facts on File Publications, 248 p.

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years. Briefly the patriarchy thesis runs as follows: "Changes in modes of control at work do not necessarily link with changes in work itself. And, indeed, the main changes in the work tasks,... (which disqualify women from promotion), were (are) not the result of a changed mode of control at work, but were (are) the culmination of a particular form of patriarchal control." (p. 193)

The third theme of the book, and one must talk about themes in a multi-authored book, evolves from a strong move in Britain to structure research around an analytical framework which focusses on local research and «localism» but which embraces a regional and national understanding of changes in the political economy. This technique is not unique to the sociologists who are the authors and who form the Lancaster group on regionalism. Rather it is a strongly felt move amongst academics and policy oriented researchers in geography and other social sciences as well who have adopted a political economy approach. Indeed it appears that a decision to make such a research strategy move is proving fruitful for our understanding of current trends and problems at the local level. However, it does not appear to have resulted in any dramatic changes in government policy at the local or the regional level in Britain. Perhaps the recalcitrance of the Thatcher government is to blame for this and not the poverty of policy arising from the research groups at the local level. Nevertheless policy is an area touched on in the book and great attention is paid to attempting to explain "why different policy and political outcomes arise, particularly as these are mediated through local, spatially variable processes".

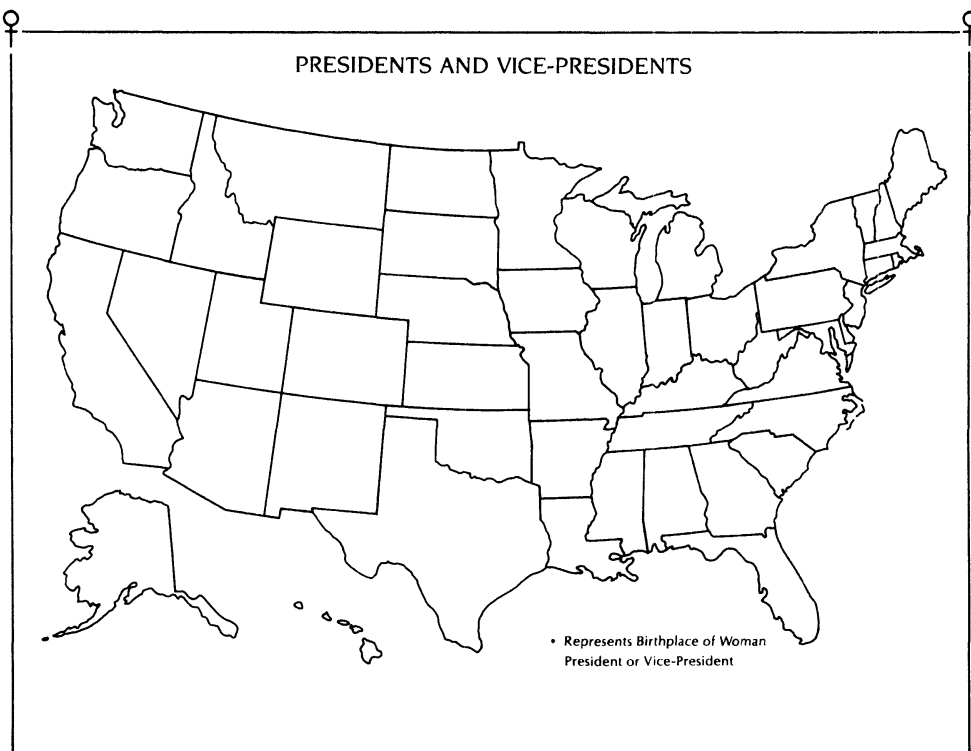
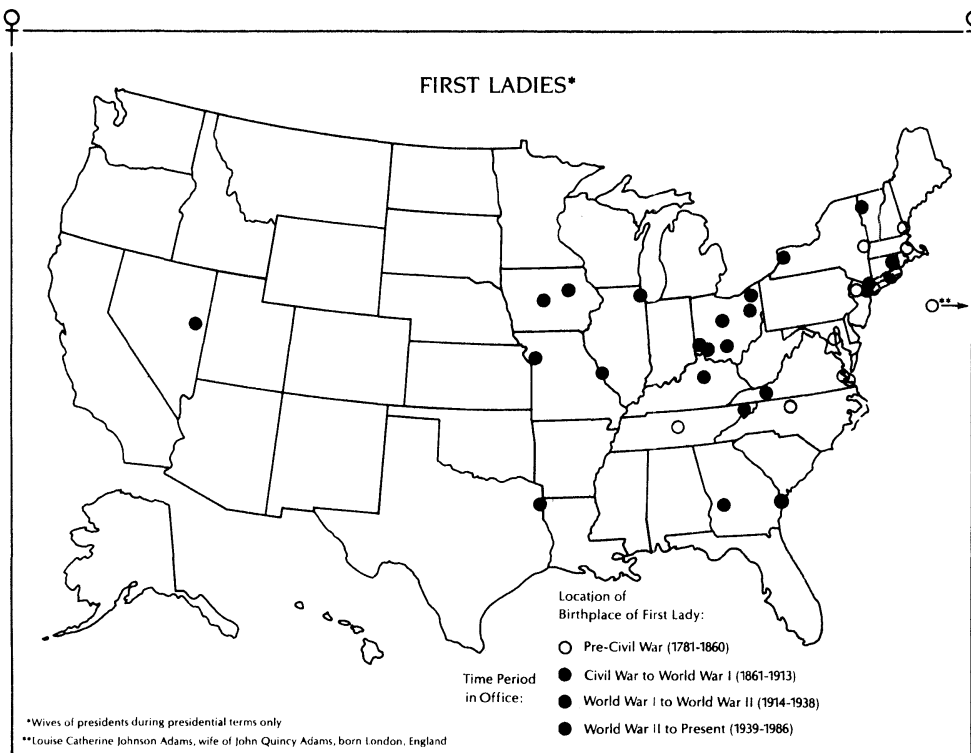
The cover jacket of the book notes that this is a jointly written effort. This implies a lot more than actually appears in print for it suggests a degree of uniformity and consistency in content, presentation and quality. The chapters are very variable in almost all matters suggesting that a further round of editing and match-writing was needed. There are eleven chapters noted with seven authors and it is probable (clear ?) that they were written as separate units. I should note here that I both sympathize and empathize with the author group because multi-authored writing is the most difficult to achieve a balance in. Nevertheless we must note that some chapters are exceedingly complex and contorted, bearing the mark of a dense and "shorthand" note style of writing whilst others are more mature in their presentation and allow the reader to reflect and to grow with the writing. The book will prove useful to researchers and students in sociology and geography and for policy makers wishing to make a sympathetic linkage with local area studies. While the book will have a professional audience it does not readily lend itself to undergraduate classes.

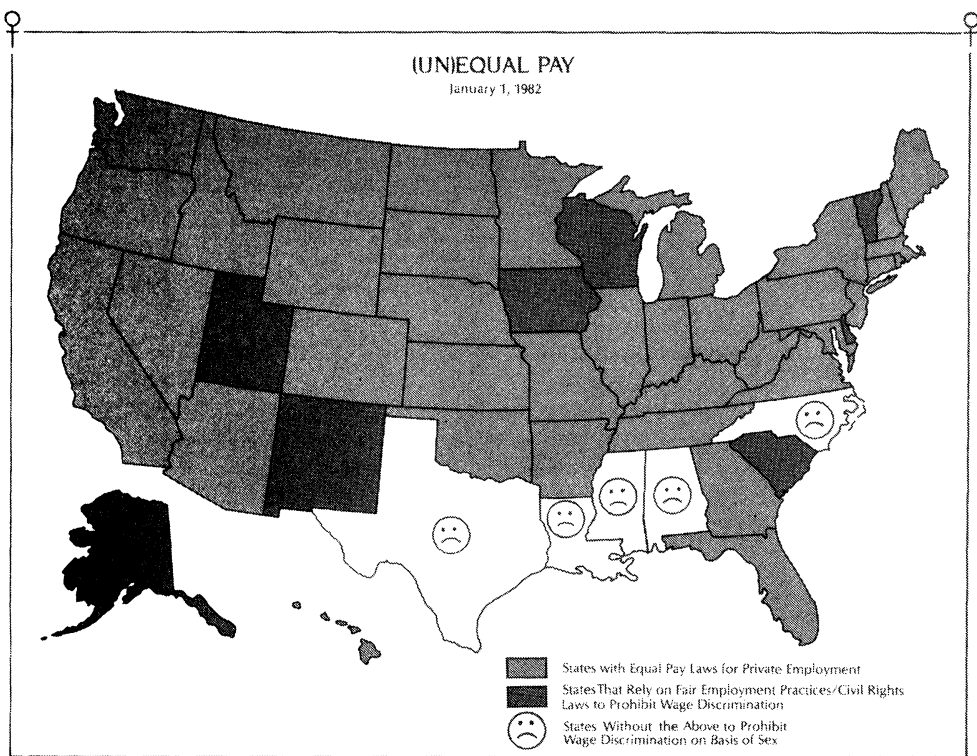
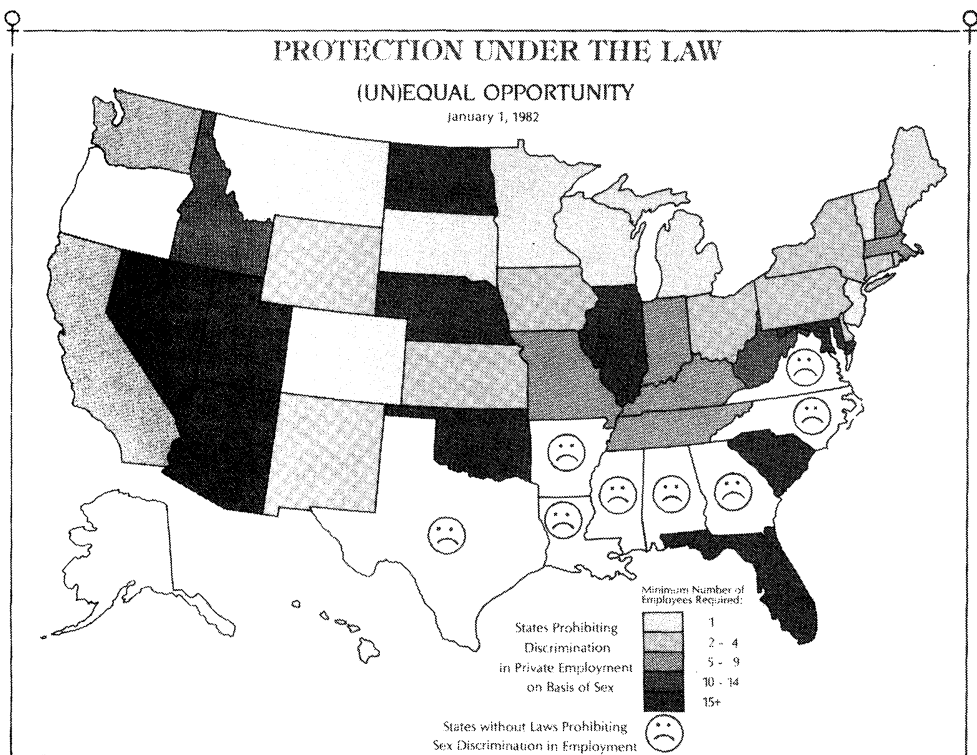
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GIBSON, Anne et FAST, Timothy (1986) *The Women's Atlas of the United States*. New York/Oxford, Facts on File Publications, 248 p.

Voilà une publication qui vient à point et qui frappe par sa richesse et son originalité. Les auteurs affirment au départ que leur intention consiste beaucoup plus à soulever des questions qu'à y répondre. C'est vrai. Mais il n'en demeure pas moins qu'à travers une série tout à fait remarquable d'exposés cartographiques, ils développent un plaidoyer sur le mode interrogatif certes, mais un plaidoyer tout de même. Ainsi de la démographie à la politique en passant par l'éducation, l'emploi, la famille, la santé et le crime, ils dévoilent un scénario d'une grande clarté. S'agissant de la position des femmes dans la société et sur le territoire américain, les auteurs montrent à quel point celle-ci est à la fois en progression mais toujours en défaveur. À quel point, malgré leur pouvoir démographique et le dynamisme de leurs initiatives, les femmes sont encore défavorisées dans l'accès à l'éducation et à l'emploi notamment.

Mais là n'est pas la principale contribution de cet atlas où ce sont les répartitions des effectifs et des phénomènes qui sont bien étudiées. La quasi totalité des cartes ont comme base statistique les états américains. L'analyse cartographique pas plus que les commentaires qui s'y adressent ne





remontent plus haut ni ne descendent plus bas dans la hiérarchie spatiale. Il en ressort tout de même une différenciation maintes fois soulignée entre les grandes régions du pays, entre l'Est industriel et le Sud par exemple, entre le « Midwest » et la côte du Pacifique, la Nouvelle-Angleterre et le reste du pays, etc. Cela concerne des sujets aussi variés que le taux de féminité, particulièrement élevé dans la plupart des états situés à l'est du Mississippi ; que la féminisation de la pauvreté, frappante dans les états du Sud-Est et du Sud ; que le taux du suicide féminin, notoirement élevé dans les états du Sud-Ouest.

En réalité, n'était-ce la progression dans l'analyse du niveau des grands thèmes, le lecteur pourrait presque s'y perdre tant les quelque deux cents sujets traités sont divers. Ces thèmes sont par moments surprenants et souvent abordés avec humour. On doit cependant regretter l'absence d'une liste complète des sujets traités, d'une table des matières exhaustive. Bien que la technique cartographique soit peu novatrice — les méthodes classiques de la cartographie par couleurs, points, etc. étant largement utilisées —, la facture d'ensemble demeure soignée, efficace et le résultat final est celui d'un outil de recherche et d'enseignement fort utile. À cet égard, les auteurs ont relevé le défi qui consiste à proposer des pistes d'étude devant enrichir à la fois la géographie des femmes et, par le fait même, leur cause sociale.

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MICHELSON, William (1985) *From Sun to Sun. Daily Obligations and Community Structure in the Lives of Employed Women and Their Families*. Totowa (N.J.), Rowman and Allanheld, 208 p.

Michelson has previously conducted major studies on housing and transportation (*Environmental Choice, Human Behaviour and Residential Satisfaction*, 1977; *Impact of Changing Women's Roles on Transportation Needs and Usage*, 1983), and in each he has focused on the attitudes and needs of women, rather than on "households" alone. The lives of employed women are now central to this book. He merges the sociologist's approach with many spatial concepts to produce a study that is rewarding for geographers to read.

The book is based on a survey of 544 Metropolitan Toronto families with children. It is a time-budget study of all family members with many additional questions to learn people's subjective feelings about their routines. Chapter 2 provides a clear and organized discussion of the methodology. The survey design is careful and thorough, designed for maximum effectiveness of the analysis in subsequent chapters. For example, Michelson mentions (p. 50) that he wished to study the degree of women's employment (part-time versus full-time) not just whether women are employed or not. This may appear to be a simple point: but I can testify that most research on attitudes and preferences concerning day care states whether women are in the labour force or not, thus lumping together part-time, full-time and unemployed workers, and some studies examine attitudes to day care of all mothers, whether they are in the labour force or not. This chapter alone might be very useful reading for students about to embark on a time-budget study.

Chapter 3 is a wide-ranging discussion of why women work. There are many reasons, from push factors such as perceived economic need to pull factors, external demand for women to fill workforce positions. "A 'ratchet effect' has occurred: once a woman decides to enter the workforce, she continues in it. Growing demand, deemed acceptability, and experience in the labor force have combined to stimulate a major trend." (p. 34) Over time, the increasing demand for women workers has gradually led to changing ideas about "acceptability" of mothers working: now a high percentage of mothers of very young children work.